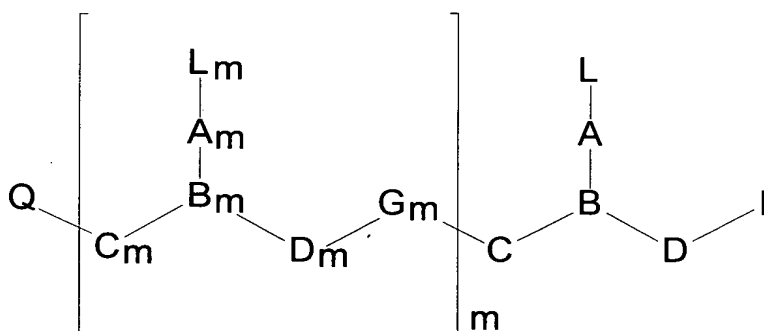


### Listing of Claims:

53. (currently amended) A peptide nucleic acid of the formula:



$R^8$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  independently are hydrogen, alkyl, an amino protecting group, a reporter ligand, an intercalator, a chelator, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a lipid, a steroid, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, a nucleotide diphosphate, a nucleotide triphosphate, an oligonucleotide, an oligonucleoside, a soluble polymer, a non-soluble polymer, a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a terpene, a phospholipid, a cell receptor binding molecule, a water soluble vitamin, a lipid

soluble vitamin, an RNA/DNA cleaving complex, a porphyrin, or a polymeric compound selected from polymeric amines, polymeric glycols and polyethers; and Q is  $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ,  $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^8$ ,  ~~$-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^9$~~ , or  $-\text{CONR}^8\text{R}^9$ .

54-62 (canceled)

63. (previously presented). The peptide nucleic acid of claim 53 wherein  $\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{R}^{10}$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  independently are hydrogen, alkyl, a peptide, a protein, a carbohydrate, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, a nucleotide diphosphate, a nucleotide triphosphate, an oligonucleotide, or an oligonucleoside.

64. (previously presented). The peptide nucleic acid of claim 53 wherein  $\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{R}^{10}$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  independently are a nucleoside, a nucleotide, an oligonucleotide, or an oligonucleoside.